

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 CFR §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,929,380 to Carlson, Jr. et al. (Carlson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that Carlson does not teach or suggest an optical fiber guide device, including, *inter alia*, a guide body to guide and hold an optical fiber cord received and arranged therein and bent in a bending direction, the guide body including a guide receiving part formed in a shape of a trough having an opening in a substantially U-shape cross-section oriented substantially perpendicular to the bending direction, the trough able to receive and arrange the optical fiber cord through the opening, as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Carlson discloses an outside corner fitting 10 having an arcuate channel 16 with side walls 24 that form an opening and are substantially perpendicular to a bottom wall 26 that conforms to the direction of bending curvature, and a cover 12 over the opening. See col. 2, lines 41-61 and Figs. 1-5 of Carlson. Such a design as taught by Carlson necessitates insertion of a routing cable along the lateral direction of the fitting rather than an opening along one side. Thus, Carlson fails to anticipate a guide receiving part having a substantially U-shaped trough oriented substantially perpendicular to the bending direction, with the trough able to receive and arrange the optical fiber cord through the opening.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claim is now patentable over the applied reference. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: November 20, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) An optical fiber guide device comprising:

a guide body ~~provided with one of a guide groove and a guide channel which can to~~ guide and hold an optical fiber cord received and arranged therein ~~in a fixed and bent shape in a bending direction, said guide body including a guide receiving part formed in a shape of a trough having an opening in a substantially U-shape cross-section oriented substantially perpendicular to said bending direction, said trough able to receive and arrange said optical fiber cord through said opening;~~ and

a mounting part provided on an outer face of said guide body and adapted to be fitted to an object of installation in which said optical fiber cord is to be installed.

3. (Amended) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1,

~~wherein said guide body further includes a guide receiving part which is formed in a shape of trough having a substantially U-shape in cross-section and bent in its lateral direction, and can receive and arrange said optical fiber cord through an opening formed in its longitudinal direction, and~~

~~a lid part adapted to be attached to said guide receiving part so as to close said opening.~~

Claims 6-8 are added.